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## Briarcliff Resident Attacks Editorial on J. Edgar Hoover

The Citizen Register:

Your profuse praise of J. Edgar Hoover deserves a rebuttal. He is described as "a profound philosopher, a dedicated patriot, a fine policeman" who has "forged an awesome force for right." He is referred to as "an untarnished symbol."

This is pretty suffocating stuff to be shoveled at a man. However, Mr. Hoover is accustomed to it, even to the point where one wonders if he has any capacity for embarrassment under such a deluge of adulation. Apparently not, since some of the more saccharin praise sometimes comes from the FBI itself.

Mr. Hoover is a fine policeman, to be sure, and perhaps, in one meaning of the word, he is also dedicated. But if he is a "profound philosopher," one of the characters out of George Orwell has re-defined both words.

Mr. Hoover has, as you say, forged an awesome force — for the right wing forces which have muddled the image of the United States for many of the years he has operated virtually without criticism and as a sacrosanct power in the land. He was a power behind Senator McCarthy when the latter, flanked by Cohn and Schine, inflicted wounds on this country so grave that the whole nation underwent a deteriorating change in personality. Mr. Hoover has been an ideological power at the right arm of that revolting galaxy of men who have headed up the so-called security and un-American activities groups over the years. I'm referring to such men as Senator Eastland, along with others, some of whom ultimately went to prison for crimes only indirectly related to their work in Congress.

If should be mentioned, too, that it was Mr. Hoover who personally reported, in connection with the rioting outside an un-American Activities Committee hearing in San Francisco, that a

young student started the trouble by dashing across police lines, grabbing a night stick from a cop and bashing him over the head with it. It took a long time after the head of the FBI participated in this smear for the boy to win complete exonerated in an outpouring of overwhelming evidence in his favor. The whole incident, which Mr. Hoover described in such detail, never happened. Even that fake movie film, "Operation Abolition," widely sponsored in the Oshtemo area by dedicated patriots, had difficulty with that one.

I doubt that any penologist, or any recognized authority of standing in the world, would countenance Hoover's philosophy of police power and punishment. It is archaic and wrong.

Mr. Hoover will not submit to interviews or questions, except when he goes before appropriations committees to explain that as the number of Communists diminish in the U.S., more money is needed to hunt traitors and conspirators. He issues releases and statements. But by and large he is the most protected and isolated man in government, not excluding CIA directors. He is the darling of the Hearst press, which in itself speaks volumes; he is treated as a saint by the worst elements of the Catholic press (i.e., The Brooklyn Tablet); he is the presidential choice of the DAR and the despair of all who seek rational laws, civil rights for all and a competent police power rooted in humane philosophy and rehabilitation techniques.

Praise him for his ability and stay-in power. He is an organizer and an administrator of extraordinary talents. He is a symbol, but scarcely untarnished. He has been too long at the core of a power group that has hurt us all.

WILLIAM RODGERS

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